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Secretary for
Environmental
Protection

California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Los Angeles Region

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Gray Davis
Governor

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Minutes of July 26, 2001 Board Meeting/Workshop held at The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California 700 North Alameda Street, Los Angeles, California

INTRODUCTION

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nahai at 9:17 a.m.

Board Members Present

Susan Cloke, Francine Diamond, H. David Nahai, Timothy Shaheen, and Bradley Mindlin

Board Members Absent

Larry Kosmont, Robert Miller, and Christopher Pak

Staff Present

Dennis Dickerson, Jorge Leon, Robert Sams, Michael Lauffer, Deborah Smith, Dennis Dasker, Ronji Harris, Laura Gallardo, Jack Price, Wendy Phillips, Xavier Swamikannu, Dan Radelescu, Weindy Abarquez, Jonathan Bishop

Others Present

Jacqy Gamble, Las Virgenes Municipal
Water District
Travis Lange, City of Santa Clarita
Desi Alvarez, EAC/City of Downey
Richard Montevideo, Rutan & Tucker
Judy Johnson, Sterling Communications
Larry Forester, Mayor, City of Signal Hill
Diane Sanchez, Department of Water Resources
Tim Piasky, Building Industry Association
Erin Alvarez, City of Cerritos
Ed Schroeder, City of Signal Hill
Steven Nikaldo, City of Los Angeles
Yvette Mullonaux, City of Pomona
Steven Boyd, Tosco Marketing
Ray Yeghyayan, City of Inglewood
Gary Lee Moore, City of Los Angeles
Lisa Rapp, City of Lakewood
Wai So, L.A. County DPW

Mark Gold, Heal the Bay
Steve Fleischli, Santa Monica Baykeeper
Richard Watson, Richard Watson
and Associates
Vincent Chee, City of Beverly Hills
John Hunter, John L. Hunter & Associates
Michael Moore, City of Pico Rivera
Neil Miller, City of Manhattan Beach
Jim Marchese, City of Los Angeles, DPW
Greg Grumm, City of Rolling Hills Estates
Mary Jane Forster-Foley
J. Michael Huls, City of Diamond Bar
Shelley Luce, Heal the Bay
Denise Smith, City of Alhambra
John Kao, City of Industry
Mustafa Ariki, Los Angeles County DPW
Eduardo Escobar, L.A. County DPW
Howard Gest, Burhenn & Gest LLP

California Environmental Protection Agency



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Our mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of California's water resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

Glen Howe, Los Angeles County DPW
John Harris, Richards, Watson & Gershon
Carl Sjoberg, L.A. County DPW
Oscar Osci, City of Rolling Hills Estates
Bryan Schweikert, L.A. Department of
Water and Power
Kathleen Letcher, LACMTA
John Jakupcak, City of West Hollywood
Rick Morgan, City of Malibu
Karen Wong, City of Glendale
Kym O'Leary, City of San Dimas
Scott Pomrehn, City of Lakewood
Wendell Johnson, City of Torrance
Jacqueoine Lambrichts, Friends of the
San Gabriel River
Jose Saez, L.A. County Sanitation District
Howard Wen, Santa Monica Bay Restoration
Project
Miwa Tamanaha, Santa Monica Bay
Restoration Project
Charles Redden, City of Covina
Brian Well, Mayer, Brown & Platt
Phyllis Papen, Alliance for Water Quality
Jason Wen, Southern California Water Company
Mary Marcus, City of Los Angeles
Sally Coreman, City of Oxnard
Peter Gutierrez, County of Los Angeles
Carlos Santos, City of Glendale

Andrea Harrington, City of Claremont
Jay Golida, Richards, Watson & Gershon
Laura Channell, City of Monterey Park
Katherine Rubin, L.A. Department of Water
and Power
Joyce Clark, Metropolitan Water District
Carolina Trevizo, L.A. County DPW
Mark Smith, Attorney
Katherine Wagner, Downey Brand
Rick Beltran, City of Glendale
Carlos Alba, City of Artesia
Ray Tahir, City of Whittier
Steve Arita, Western States Petroleum
Association
Cathy Chang, Santa Monica Bay
Restoration Project
Stephanie Hada, Santa Monica Bay
Restoration Project
Jack Topei, Santa Monica Bay
Restoration Project
Tom Leary, City of Long Beach
Aven Yam, City of Manhattan Beach
Dale Bowyer, San Francisco Bay RWQCB
Donna Chen, City of Los Angeles
Vicki Musgrove, City of Ventura
Paul Wendt, City of Oxnard
Michelle Drouse', NA/OP
Mike Lewis, Construction Coalition on
Water Quality

Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Roll Call

A roll call was taken.

2. Order of Agenda.

There were no changes to the Agenda.

3. Board Member Ex Parte Communication Disclosure.

There was nothing reported.



4. Public Forum.

There were no speaker cards turned in for the Public Forum.

5. WORKSHOP *To discuss the proposed renewal of the Municipal Storm Water Permit for the County of Los Angeles.*

Dennis Dickerson, Executive Officer, gave the staff presentation. He stated, the purpose of this workshop is to discuss the elements of the draft permit. He mentioned that addition changes to the second draft are expected. He also mentioned, this is the third Storm Water permit term for Los Angeles County. He discussed the significance of the receiving water limitations language. He also mentioned the purpose of the Public Information and Participation Program.

Wendy Phillips, Chief, Storm Water section, discussed about the Inspection program, and the critical source study which identified five business categories that pose great threat to storm water quality. She mentioned that a more aggressive approach is needed to promote compliance by businesses.

Dan Radulescu, Board staff presented an overview of the regulatory authority for the inspection program permit.

Xavier Swamikannu, Unit Chief, discussed the planning and development programs. He mentioned the regulatory basis, and compared requirements with those in the existing permits.

Wendy Phillips, Chief, talked about the results of field surveys of open channels. She stated that many of the cities are unable to estimate the length of their storm drain system. She also talked about illicit discharges, and illicit connections. She pointed out that there is a difference as to what the Regional Board believes is necessary compared to what the County feels is necessary.

Megan Fisher, Board staff, briefed the Board about the significant changes made to the monitoring program. She identified significant sources of pollutants. She mentioned the attempt to keep the monitoring program cost effective.

Jorge Leon, Lead Regional Counsel, gave legal comments regarding the draft permit. He mentioned the various letters that were received from counsel to the cities. He clarified that the permit requirements are derived from Federal law, and not State law. He also discussed the unfunded mandate issue.

Representatives of Permittees

Desi Alvarez, Executive Advisory Committee of the Los Angeles Municipal Storm Water Permit, thanked the Regional Board staff. He said the common goal is to improve water quality, but there is a difference in detail of achieving it. He stated that he is looking



forward to the third draft of the permit, and the most effective way to deal with storm water runoff is to deal with the source. He said the committee will like to see the SUSMP requirements used in this permit. He also mentioned, finances are a primary concern, and will have a negative affect on communities.

Mustafa Ariki, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Manager, has concerns that have not been addressed. He would like to see a permit that can be complied with, without conflict to the overall goal. He asked the Board to direct staff to continue to work with permittees on this permit. Mr. Ariki does not agree with the illicit connections/ illicit discharges program in the permit. He believes objectives can be achieved by improving the current existing programs.

Ken Farsing, City of Signal Hill, is concerned had concerns about programs in the draft permit that are not funded. He also made comments on the dry weather diversion program being more effective in detention basins.

Richard Montevideo, Attorney at Rutan & Tucker, LLP stated that he will be submitting comments by the August 6, 2001 deadline. He believes there is a lack of dialogue between the Regional Board and municipalities. He expressed concern that the language in regulations do not match the language in the permit. He also talked about CEQA.

John Harris, Richards Watson & Gershon expressed the importance of safe harbor provisions.

Rufus Young, Jr., Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP (attorney for various cities) made comments in reference to his letter sent to the Regional Board. He requested, SUSMP provisions be included in the permit, an option by co-permittees.

Desi Alvarez concluded the presentations for the permittees.

The Board recessed for lunch break at 12:30 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1:40 p.m.

Enviromental Groups

Mark Gold, Heal the Bay, said that there is toxicity in runoff, wet and dry weather, and contaminant sediment at the mouth of Ballona Creek, as well as Dominguez Channel. He believes the watershed approach is missing from the permit.

David Beckman, NRDC believes there are flaws in the permit and management plan. He believes staff should conduct annual audits and inspections.

Heather Hoercherl, NRDC, expressed her support, and commended the SUSMP program. She urged the Board to expand the education programs, and add "Regional Solutions" to the permit.



Steve Fleischli, Santa Monica Baykeeper, talked about the illicit connection/illicit discharges. He believes there is a lack of inspections and permit reviews. He does not believe the industrial and commercial inspection program is adequate.

Shelley Luce, Heal the Bay, believes the permit is lacking specific language, i.e. requirements that are not specific and are left open-ended, and IC/ID is lacking quantifiable requirements. She also talked addressed the monitoring program.

Others who spoke on this matter:

Anita Mangels, Alliance for Water Quality, believes the permit will pose financial hardships on businesses, and hopes the Board will arrive at a sound solution that can be clear, sound and cost effective for everyone.

Marco Metzger, CA Department of Health Services, Vector-Borne Disease Section, stated that his reason for attending this meeting due to his concern for mosquitos. He said that California has no legislation that supports vector control. He asked for supportive language to be incorporated into the permit.

Dr. Cathy Chang, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project, stated that storm water is the number one source of pollution into the bay. She believes the time for investigating IC/ID inspections appears to be too long to be effective.

Ray Tahir,, Consultant, City of Whittier, requested that another Workshop be held in the near future.

*Mike Lewis, Construction Coalition on Water Quality
Michele Drouse', NAIOP,
Brian Wall, Attorney, Mayer, Brown & Platt
Laura Gentile, USEPA
Jose Saez, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Tim Piasky, Building Industry Association
Carl Sjoberg, Los Angeles County DPW*

***The Board directed additional questions and received responses from the following speakers:*

*Mustafa Ariki
Desi Alvarez
Richard Montevideo
Dr. Cathy Chang, SMBRP
Laura Gentile, USEPA
Steve Fleischli, Santa Monica Baykeeper
Mark Gold, Heal the Bay*



INFORMATION ITEMS

6. Executive Officer's Report.
7. Closed Session.
8. Adjournment of Current Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2001, at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Board Room, located at 700 North Alameda Street, in Los Angeles, at 9:00 a.m.

Minutes adopted at the _____ Regular Board meeting
submitted/amended.

Written and submitted by: _____.

